

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1-20 and 27-30 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing flow of datagram traffic, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

providing a first networked device that is operably connected to a second networked device;

transferring datagrams from a first port of the first device to a first port of the second device using a pathway that is operably connected to a second port of the first device and a second port of the second device; and

selectively pausing an individual port on the first device that is causing over-subscription of the first port of the second device.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~the step of~~ re-activating a paused port by transmitting a re-activation signal to the paused port.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~the step of~~ re-activating a paused port pursuant to the detection of a condition wherein the first port of the second device has datagram traffic flowing therethrough in an amount that is below a lower trigger value.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~the step of~~ re-activating a paused port pursuant to the passage of a pre-determined time increment.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selectively pausing ~~step~~ comprises using in-band control frames to pause the individual port.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selectively pausing step comprises using separate pathways between the first and second networked devices to transmit datagrams and control frames.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selectively pausing step comprises using a non-memory-consuming communication to pause the individual port.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selectively pausing step comprises referencing a listing of ports that are over-subscribed.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the selectively pausing step comprises periodically updating the listing of ports that are over-subscribed.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selectively pausing step comprises selectively pausing individual ports on devices other than the first and second device.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of managing flow of datagram traffic, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

providing a first networked device that is operably connected to a second networked device;

transferring datagrams from a first port of the first device to a first port of the second device using a pathway that is operably connected to a second port of the first device and a second port of the second device; and

signaling the first port of the first device to send fewer datagrams to the first port of the second device when an over-subscription is detected at the first port of the second device.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the signaling step comprises signaling the first port of the first device to send datagrams in proportion to a total number of datagrams attempting to reach the first port of the second device.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the signaling step is performed using a non-memory-consuming communication to signal the first port of the first device.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the signaling step comprises broadcasting a signal that alerts ports on the network that the first port of the second device is over-subscribed.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the transferring step comprises referencing a listing of ports on the network that are over-subscribed before transferring a datagram between the first port of the first device to the first port of the second device.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising:  
resuming unrestricted datagram transmission to the first port of the second device by broadcasting a signal.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

resuming unrestricted datagram transmission to the first port of the second device when a total number of datagrams attempting to reach the first port of the second device falls below a lower trigger value.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising:  
resuming unrestricted datagram transmission to the first port of the second device after passage of a pre-determined time increment.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the signaling step comprises using in-band control frames.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the signaling step comprises using a separate link to transmit control frames.

21. (Original) A communications system comprising:  
a first data distribution means operably connected to a second data distribution means;  
a first communications means for transferring datagrams from a first port of the first data distribution means to a first port of the second data distribution means; and  
control means for selectively pausing individual ports that are causing over-subscription of the first port of the second data distribution means.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising:  
a second communications means between the first data distribution means and the second data distribution means wherein the second communications means is non-lossy.

23. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising storage means for storing information concerning which ports in the network are over-subscribed.

24. (Original) A communications system comprising:

a first data distribution means operably connected to a second data distribution means for distributing datagrams over a network;

communications means for transferring the datagrams from a first port of the first data distribution means to a first port of the second data distribution means; and

control means for signaling the first port of the first data distribution means to send fewer datagrams to the first port of the second data distribution means when an over-subscription is detected at the first port of the second data distribution means.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, further comprising:

a second communications means for allowing communication between the first data distribution means and the second data distribution means, wherein the second communications means is non-lossy.

26. (Original) The system of claim 24, further comprising:

storage means for storing information concerning which ports in the network are over-subscribed.

27. (Currently Amended) A communications system comprising:

a first device operably connected to a second device;

a first controller ~~capable of transferring~~configured to transfer datagrams from a first port of the first device to a first port of the second device; and

a second controller ~~capable of selectively~~configured to selectively pause individual ports in the first device that are contributing to over-subscription of the first port of the second device.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 27, further comprising:

a storage unit ~~for storing~~configured to store information concerning which ports in the second device are over-subscribed.

29. (Currently Amended) A communications system comprising:
  - a first device operably connected to a second device;
  - a first controller ~~capable of transferring~~configured to transfer datagrams from a first port of the first device to a first port of the second device; and
  - a second controller ~~capable of signaling~~configured to signal the first port of the first device to send fewer datagrams to the second port of the second device when an over-subscription is detected at the second port of the second device.
30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 29, further comprising:
  - a storage unit ~~for storing~~configured to store information concerning which ports in the network are over-subscribed.